

Appl. No. 10/578,821
Amdt. dated: October 24, 2007
Reply to Office action of August 21, 2007

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Priority

The Office Action states that the present application cannot receive 371 status at this time because there is no Notice of Acceptance of Application under 35 U.S.C. 371 and 37 CFR 1.495 of record. However, we received the Notice of Acceptance of Application mailed on January 29, 2007. Thus, withdrawal of the objection as it applies to this application is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

The Office Action states that the information disclosure statement fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document. We submit a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document. Thus, withdrawal of the objection as it applies to this application is respectfully requested. For the examiner's convenience, a clear copy of the IDS form is provided. Applicants requested an initialed IDS form to confirm consideration of the references.

Drawings

The drawings are objected to because Figures 8-10 should be designated by a legend such as -Prior Art-. The drawings are amended herein to provide such a legend. No new matter is entered by the amendment.

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Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

Claims 1-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nemoto (JP Patent No. 2002-156702, hereinafter “Nemoto”). For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2-7 are cancelled.

Claim 1 is amended.

Regarding the amended claim 1, the configuration, the hold-down portion engages with the shooting window member with a surface perpendicular to the direction of the thickness of the shooting window member” is carried out by the configuration, “wherein the shooting window member is configured by a first plate-shaped member and a second plate-shaped member having a size smaller than that of the first plate-shaped member being bonded together, and wherein the shooting window member engages with the hold-down portion at a portion of the first plate-shaped member protruded from the second plate-shaped member.”

According to the above configuration, the shooting window member has the peripheral protruding portion, which provides “the perpendicular surface for engagement”, without cutting process of the showing window member to make a step on the peripheral surface, hence manufacturing is facilitated (the paragraph [0070] of the present publication). Thus, the process of cutting the showing window member (front glass 13) is not necessary and manufacturing is facilitated (the paragraphs [0065]-[0070], particularly [0070] of the present publication).

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Nemoto does not disclose the configuration of this invention including the first and second plate-shaped members having different sizes (diameters) and bonded to each other to make a peripheral protruding shape. Nemoto's shooting window member has an inclined plane on the periphery, that is, Nemoto's configuration does not have the protruding shape at the periphery. This means that Nemoto essentially does not need the configuration of this invention including two plates bonded together. Also, neither Wasada (JP Patent No. 2003-043567) nor Ito et al. (JP Patent No. 2003-040034) discloses the configuration of this invention.

More specifically, according to the basic feature of the present invention, since the outer surface of the hold-down portion is located at the same position as, or backwardly of, the outer surface of the showing window member, natural substances such as snow can be prevented from being accumulated on the outer surface of the showing window member even when the monitor camera is installed in the outdoor. Since the hold-down portion engages with the shooting window member with **a surface perpendicular to the direction of the thickness of the shooting window member**, sealing is ensured (the paragraph [0033] of the present publication). On the other hand, Nemoto has the configuration in which the glass 3b engages the holding plate 10 with **inclined portion 10a**. Nemoto neither discloses the structure with "the perpendicular surface" for engagement of the hold-down portion and the shooting window member, nor ensures sealing.

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Therefore, since every limitation of claim 1 is not taught by the reference, claim 1 is not fully anticipated by Nemoto. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection as it applies to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Regarding claims 2-7, since claims 2-7 have been cancelled, the rejections of these claims are moot.

In consideration of the foregoing analysis, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

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If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. OHNO-40325 .

Respectfully submitted,
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